Welcome to the

Pigeon Lake Yurts

User Manual

&

Visitor Guide

Small Yurt

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What is a yurt?

A yurt is the traditional dwelling of Central Asia nomads. Made to resist extreme climates, this circular shape abode has five basic elements: lattice walls, roof beams, a roof ring, a door, and a felt and hide covering. Since the 13th century, yurts have been used by nomadic horse herders as portable homes. It takes less than a day to deconstruct or set-up a yurt.

Yurt in Mongolia (Alex Mueller)

The yurts in Pigeon Lake Provincial Park are a modernized version of the traditional yurt. They are warmer than a tent and have insulated walls and roofs, and an electric heater to keep cozy on those cool fall evenings. In the summer, the yurts are kept cool with windows, dome and door openings providing cross ventilation. Yurts provide the ultimate camping experience, combining the comfort of a cabin and the intimacy of sleeping in the great outdoors.

Pigeon Lake Provincial Park offers 8 yurts to choose from:

1 small	sleeps 4 people	1 queen bed, 1 double futon
4 medium	sleeps 6 people	1 queen over queen bunk bed, 1 double futon
2 medium	sleeps 6 people	1 double over queen bunk bed, 1 double futon
1 large	sleeps 8 people	2 double over queen bunk beds, 1 double futon

Within this manual you will find a description of items provided, basic rules to be followed when staying in the yurts, and a visitor guide with activities in the park. If you have any questions that are not answered in this manual, please visit the registration booth at the entrance to the campground or phone 1-877-537-2757.

What is provided with your yurt?

Each yurt comes equipped with a number of amenities to make your stay as comfortable as possible. Please remember that the following items must remain in the yurt throughout your stay and will need to be accounted for upon your departure.

- Electric heater, lights and clock radio
- Pots, pans, cooking implements, plates, bowls, coffee cups and eating utensils/cutlery
- Dish cloths, dish towels and washing basins
- Coffee pot
- Refrigerator (12 cubic feet with freezer)
- Kitchen table and chairs
- 1 queen bed plus pull-out, double mattress; mattress covers and fitted sheets provided for all beds
- Close to potable water, flush toilets, coin-operated showers
- Water jug for transporting hot water from nearest washroom building
- Private deck and deck furniture; picnic table and 2 deck chairs
- Gas barbecue with grill and side burner, barbecue utensils
- Fire pit, wooden benches
- 1 parking stall each
- Wheelchair accessible
- 1 complimentary bag of firewood provided, with additional bags of firewood available for purchase ($8 per bundle)

What to bring

There are some items you will need to bring when staying in a yurt, and a number of optional items you may choose to pack in order to feel a little more at home.

The following are items you **should bring** to facilitate your stay.

- Food & beverages (groceries available in the Village at Pigeon Lake, located 15 minutes southeast)
- Pillows and sleeping bags or duvets/blankets
- Towels, toiletries, hair dryer, etc
- Water jug to hold drinking water (water at Pigeon Lake Provincial Park campground is potable)
- Flashlight (for walking to the washroom or sitting outside in the dark)
- Matches or a lighter and kindling to start a campfire
- Appropriate clothing and footwear, hat and sunglasses

Optional items to bring with you from home are as follows:

- Camping stove for cooking or boiling water (OUTDOOR USE ONLY)
- Cookware for cooking on the fire
- Firewood (bundles of wood can be purchased in the campground)
- Hatchet or axe to split wood (purchased wood is already split)
- Sharp kitchen knives (if desired)
- Paper towels, tissues
- Table cloth
- Clothesline to hang wet towels and bathing suits outside
- Additional lawn chairs or camping chairs (if desired)
- Insect repellant and sunscreen
- Games
- Change for showers. $1 will get you two minutes of shower time. Please note that the showers only accept loonies ($1 coin) and toonies ($2 coin)

Yurt Rules

The yurts at Pigeon Lake were built to provide a unique camping experience for anyone wishing to stay in the park. The yurt sites are located in the campground and are therefore subject to campground regulations. Please respect the yurts, the landscape, and the other park visitors by following a few simple rules during your stay.

- Check-in time is 4 p.m. Check-out time is 11 a.m.
- Pets are not allowed in or around the site.
- Smoking is strictly prohibited inside the unit and on the deck.
- Cooking inside the unit is not allowed. This can damage the weatherproofing and poses a fire hazard. Please use the barbeque provided.
- Do not use pots and pans provided to cook on open fire as this will damage them
- Additional tents or trailers are NOT allowed on or near the site
- Please leave your yurt in the same condition you found it – undamaged, clean, and tidy.
- Wash all dishes before your departure
- Quiet time is 11:00 p.m to 7:00 a.m.
- Consumption of alcohol may only occur within the yurt site (with the exception of the May long weekend when a liquor ban is in effect)

Tips for yurt camping

Camping in a yurt is a very unique experience. Certain design features, when used correctly, can help to make your stay the most comfortable it can be. To get the most out of your yurt experience, browse through some of our tips and tricks.

Tip #1: Ventilation is key to temperature control inside a yurt. On hot days, keep your window covers rolled up so air can flow through the yurt. Open the roof vent as well. Be careful not to over-crank the dome cover as it only opens about 6 inches. To stay warm on cool autumn evenings, keep your windows and roof vent sealed tight and turn the electric heater on.

Tip #2: The grey-coloured water jug that is provided can be used to haul warm or hot water for washing from one of the nearest washroom buildings (in Loop C). We do not recommend using this jug for potable water storage.

Tip #3: Always make sure to close window covers and the roof vent during any rainfall. If you plan on leaving the yurt for any amount of time and there is a possibility of rain, please close the windows and roof vent.

Tip #4: Although your yurt is built to keep wildlife out, improper storage of food items may encourage insects such as ants or flies to move in. Keep food off the floor and properly packaged to avoid having to entertain unwanted dinner guests! Additionally, please do not prop open the yurt door as this may allow for small rodents such as squirrels and mice to explore your beautiful and inviting indoor space.

Tip #5*:* Cooking is not allowed inside the yurt, so prepare meals that can be cooked on a BBQ or over the fire, or stick with sandwiches and snacks to avoid having to cook all together! If cooking over the fire, please do not use the cookware that is provided.

Tip #6: There are tupperware bins provided for washing dishes. Fill one tub with warm soapy water (warm water can be collected at the washroom building in Loop C) and one with clean water for rinsing. Once you have finished washing the dishes, please dump the dirty water into the outhouse to avoid attracting wildlife.

Instructions for Opening Windows

The yurt windows have three components: (1) an outer solid fabric, weatherproof privacy cover with side zippers, (2) a removable clear vinyl window that is secured on all four sides with velcro and, (3) a permanently fixed bug screen. To open the windows, use the following procedure:

1) The fabric window coverings can be opened from the outside of the yurt with the vertical zippers on each side. Unzip each side from the bottom up. Once unzipped, roll the fabric from the bottom up and secure it at the top with the ties/clips provided.

2) The clear plastic window is secured with Velcro on all four sides and can be either completely removed or lowered part way by detaching the top half and then reattaching to the Velcro on the sides.

If you remove the windows entirely, store them loosely rolled and under the bed inside the yurt. Please do not leave the windows outside or lying on the ground.

3) When opening the dome roof window, turn crank until window has opened approximately 6 inches. This window DOES NOT open all the way. Once you are able to feel friction when cranking, the window has fully opened. Please do not force the crank as this will break the window hinge.

Amenities

Concession

The Pigeon Lake campground concession is located in the day use area (near the beach and boat launch). Here, you can find hot dogs and burgers, breakfast meals, snacks, hot and cold drinks, ice cream, and basic groceries.

Hours of operation: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Friday to Sunday (in May)

The Village at Pigeon Lake

The Village offers a number of conveniences and is a great place to find groceries, restaurants, cafes, a pharmacy, and a gas station. You can get to the Village in 15 minutes by car. Exit the campground and head southeast on highway 771. At the junction of highway 771 and highway 13, head east on highway 13.

The Village Market:

Large super market store stocked full of fresh produce, meats and all your grocery needs, including a bakery. Phone: 780-586-3860

Hours of operation: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Monday to Friday
9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Saturday
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Sunday

Cafes and Restaurants:

There are a number of dining opportunities in the Village, from coffee houses to restaurants.

Daisy McBeans 780-586-0771
– baked goods, lunch specials, coffee and ice cream

ECO Café 780-586-2627
– restaurant offering meals prepared with locally produced product

The Lake Cookhouse 780-586-2277
– family restaurant serving steaks, ribs, burgers and more

Village Pizza and Subs 780-586-3838
– fully licensed restaurant serving pizza, subs, salad, nachos and more

Shopping

Spend the morning shopping or just browse through the shops at one of the many retailers located throughout the Village. You'll find everything from gift stores, clothing shops, liquor stores, a salon and spa, and even an art gallery.

Farmer's Market 780-682-3797

- FRIDAYS are Farmers' Market Days, from the 2nd Friday in May until the September long weekend, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. Located at the south end of Pigeon Lake on Highway 13. Go past the Village at Pigeon Lake to Range Road 12, then south 1 km to the Lakedell complex.

MA-ME-O Beach Market

Sundays from 10:00am to 3:00pm from May to September at the Summer Village of MA-ME-O Beach, located at the south-east end of Pigeon Lake, on Highway 13A .

Backstreet 780-586-0733

Quality antiques and collectibles, plus giftware, home décor and jewelry. Open daily from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Located 3 km east of the Village at Pigeon Lake on Highway 13.

Gas and Auto Repair

Petro Canada 780-586-3888

The Petro Canada gas station can be found at the Village. Gasoline, diesel, motor oil, driving accessories, snacks, hot and cold drinks can be purchased here.

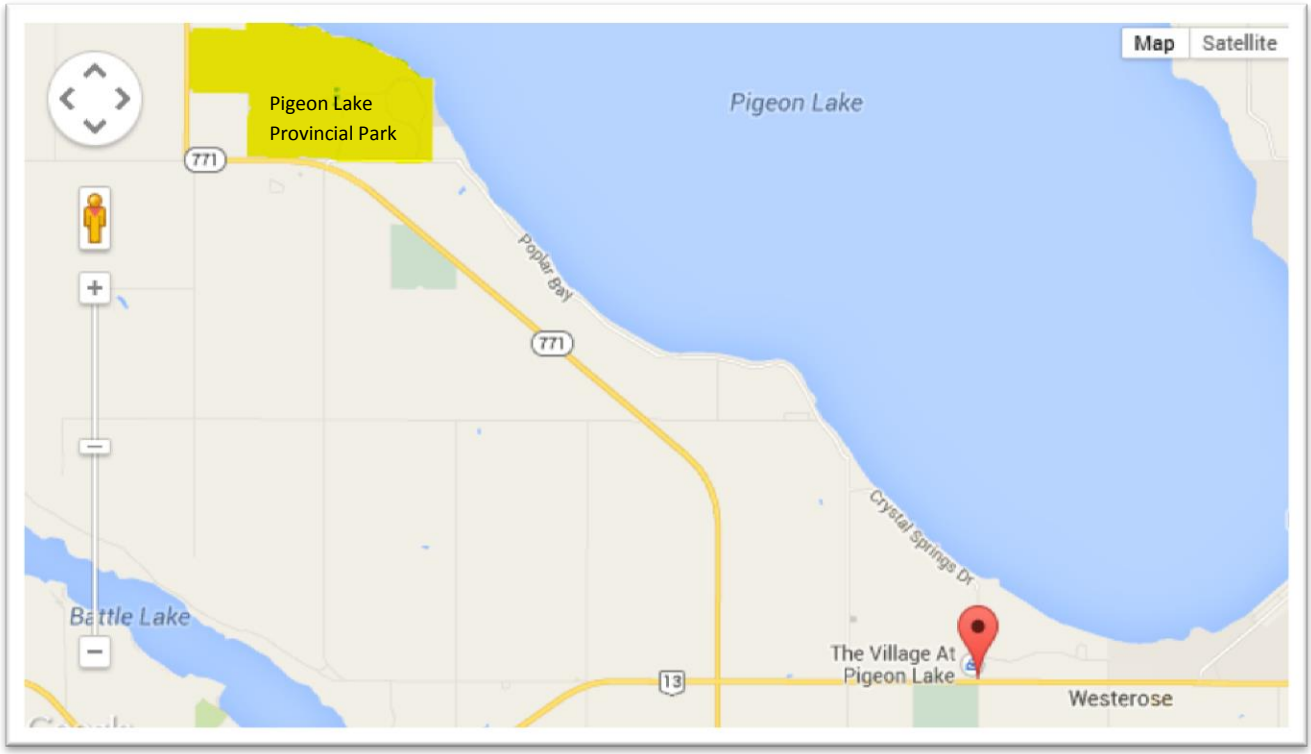
Westerose Automotive 780-586-0704

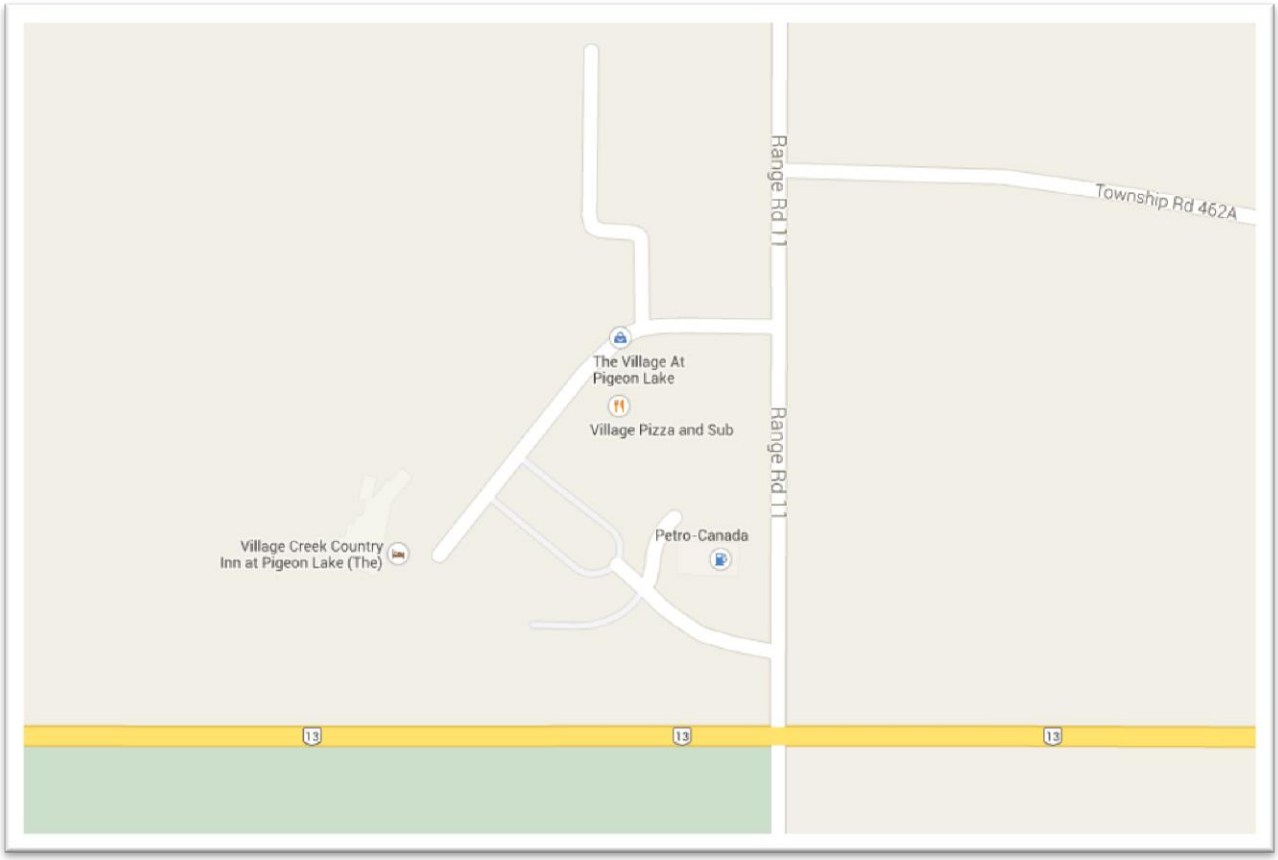
Automotive repairs and tires. Located on the corner of Highways 13 and 771.

Pharmacy

Leibel's Family Pharmacy can fill your prescriptions and carries a wide variety of over-the-counter medications and health products to meet individual needs. A Canada Post office is also located inside the pharmacy. 780-586-0796

The Village at Pigeon Lake





Activities

Swimming

Swimming is a main activity for people staying at, or visiting, Pigeon Lake. The designated swimming area and beach can be found at the day use area, just east of the yurts. You can walk to the beach by following the trail that runs parallel to the lakeshore, just behind yurt site #123 (Turn to the right once on the trail). There are no lifeguards present at the beach, however you may borrow a life jacket from the "Kids Don't Float" kiosk located at the day use boat launch.

Zeiner campground also offers a designated swimming area and beach. Please refer to the map at the back of this manual for directions to Zeiner Beach.

Please be aware of any blue-green algae advisories that may be in effect and avoid swimming during these times. For more information on blue-green algae, visit www.albertahealthservices.ca.

Fishing

Pigeon Lake offers spectacular fishing opportunities, whether you're a seasoned professional or have just purchased your first fishing rod. Fishing licenses are required by law in Alberta and can be obtained online through AlbertaRELM or at any number of sporting goods stores, convenience stores, and gas stations. Youth under 16 years of age, persons over 65 years of age, and First Nations people do not require a fishing license.

Pike, perch, lake whitefish, burbot and walleye can all be found in the lake. Please be aware of the fishing regulations for Pigeon Lake, including catch limits and seasonal restrictions. You can access this information in the Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations at http://albertaregulations.ca/fishingregs/.

Boating

There are two boat launches available at Pigeon Lake Provincial Park. Registered campers have access to the launch located just north of the day use area, accessible from the shower building access road. The second launch is open to general public and is located near the park entrance, just past the registration booth. Be sure to have a bailing bucket, whistle, paddles and life jackets with you in the boat. Life jackets may be borrowed from the "Kids Don't Float" station near the boat launch in the day use area.

Hiking

There are approximately 12 km of hiking trails in Pigeon Lake Provincial Park, which can be accessed through yurt site #123 (alternatively, you can find the trail from the day use area as well). These trails follow the lake shoreline and loop around the campground, with an additional loop leading further into the forested areas. It is easy walking on well-groomed, grassy trails, with very little elevation gain. These trails are also open in winter for cross country skiing as well. See the map at the back of this manual for trails.

Golfing

There are 4 golf courses within a short driving distance from Pigeon Lake Provincial Park that offer a variety of courses to suit every skill level. Bring your own clubs or rent a set and enjoy an afternoon on the greens.

Pigeon Lake Golf Club 780-389-3783
- An 18 hole, par 72 links-style course located at Mulhurst Bay

Willow Greens Golf Resort 780-586-2071
- An 18 hole course conveniently located near Pigeon Lake Provincial Park

Dorchester Ranch Golf 780-586-2350
- A challenging 18 hole golf course located in the immediate Pigeon Lake area, Hwy 13 west and south on Range Road 11

Black Bull Golf Course 866-586-2254
- 27 hole facility offers an 18 Hole Championship Course for the avid golfer as well as a 9 Hole Executive Course. Located across from the Village at Pigeon Lake on Black Bull road.

Blackstone Minigolf Park 780-586-2290
- Mini Golf and park for all ages. Beautifully landscaped, terraced greens, waterfalls. Gold Panning, Grass volleyball, Tetherball, Soccer, Sandbox, and Snacks also available. Located one block north of the Village at Pigeon Lake.

Pigeon Lake hiking trail

Black Bull Golf Resort

Birding and Wildlife Watching

Pigeon Lake is an important stop over for many migrating birds but is also home to a large variety of species. Waterfowl such as loons, mergansers, grebes, coots and teals can be seen on the lake at any time of day. Keep an eye on the shoreline for waders and shorebirds such as killdeer, sandpipers, and greater yellowlegs. Deep in the reeds you'll find great blue herons, sora rails, and American bitterns hiding in the shallows. And don't forget to stroll through the forest to look for insect-eating warblers and birds of prey soaring through the canopy.

Wherever there is a body of water, you're sure to find an abundance of wildlife. Whitetail and mule deer can be seen in open meadows, along roadsides, or deep in the forest grazing on grasses and shrubs. Moose are often spotted near wetlands and marshy areas where they can feast on rich aquatic plants. Coyotes are seen most frequently at dawn and dusk and can be heard yipping and howling in the evenings as the sun ducks behind the horizon. Porcupines, skunks, weasels and ground squirrels can all be spotted with a little luck and a lot of patience.

Coyote (A.Cole)

Dragonfly (A.Cole)

Great blue heron (A.Cole)

Bull moose (A.Cole)

Emergency Contacts

Most cell phone carriers have service in the Park, but a payphone can also be located in the day use area.

All medical emergencies	9-1-1
Park Office/Information	780-586-2644
Parks Enforcement Line	403-350-5066
Reservation Changes/Inquiries	1-877-537-2757
To Report a Wildfire	310-FIRE (310-3473) toll free
Report a Poacher	1-800-642-3800

CALL 9-1-1

for emergency

Alberta Parks Regulations

The information that follows is intended as a general guide to some of the regulations under the *Provincial Parks Act* and a variety of other provincial and federal legislation that apply to recreational activities in provincial parks and recreation areas.

Contravention of regulations may result in eviction, a court-imposed fine or a restitution order.

Regulations are enforced by conservation officers (peace officers in the Province of Alberta). Conservation officers work with local police authorities to ensure the safety of park visitors.

Boating

- For the safety of both swimmers and boaters, please obey all signs at boat launches and on lakes.
- It is illegal to transport passengers to and from the boat launch in the back of a pickup truck or in the boat.
- Boats used on any water body must conform with the *Canada Shipping Act* and regulations.
- *Transport Canada* has information about boating regulations and safety.

Camping

Deal with Waste Properly

- Liquid and solid waste must be disposed of in receptacles provided.
- Pouring waste water on open ground or in sumpholes dug beneath trailers is prohibited.
- Where waste receptacles are not provided, waste must be carried out of the area for disposal.
- Do not bathe or clean clothing, fish or cooking/eating utensils near water fountains, taps and wells.

Be a Good Neighbour

- Avoid excessive noise so that everyone can enjoy the peace and tranquility of parks.
- Quiet hours are 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- Loud partying, stereos at high volume and other rowdy behavior are not tolerated at any time.
- Constantly running generators is considered excessive noise UNLESS required for medical reasons. Please use your generator in moderation.
- Camping permit holders are responsible for the actions of all camping party members and any visitors to their campsite.

Day Use

- Available for public use from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. only

Fire Prevention

- Campfires are permitted only in facilities provided.
- Never leave your campfire unattended. Ensure your campfire is completely out before turning in for the night and before leaving your campsite.
- Campfire bans and/or travel restrictions may be implemented when the fire hazard is extreme.
- Campgrounds may be closed if a forest fire situation in the vicinity threatens public safety.
- To report a wildfire, call 310-FIRE (310-3473) toll free from anywhere in Alberta.

Firearms & Hunting

- Hunting and carrying or discharging firearms are not permitted in most provincial parks and recreation areas.
- Hunting is permitted in wildland parks and in some provincial parks and recreation areas.
- The *Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations* contains detailed information about hunting licenses, hunting regulations and wildlife management units.
- Dressing, hanging and storing big game are not permitted without authorization from a conservation officer.

Fireworks

- Use of fireworks is prohibited.

Fishing

- If you are an Alberta resident between the ages of 16 and 65, you must obtain an Alberta angling license to fish. Non-residents must obtain an Alberta angling license regardless of age.
- The *Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations* has detailed info on season and catch limits.

Liquor

- Consumption of alcohol is restricted to registered campsites in accordance with the *Alberta Gaming and Liquor Act*.
- Liquor is prohibited:
    - on roads, trails and beaches;
    - in washrooms and cook shelters; and
    - in day use areas/picnic sites.

Motor Vehicles

- Drive cautiously and obey all speed limits. Children may be playing in the area and campground roads are often used as pathways.
- Keep all vehicles on designated roadways to prevent damage to trees and other vegetation.
- Operating off-highway vehicles (OHVs) is not permitted in provincial parks. OHV use is permitted in a limited number of provincial recreation areas and wildland provincial parks on designated trails only.

Plants & Fossils

- It is illegal to remove, deface, injure or destroy plants, fossils and rocks.
- Using dead wood lying on the ground (deadfall) for firewood is also prohibited.
- Picking common flowers, wild fruits and mushrooms is permitted IF you have verbal approval from a conservation officer.

Wildlife

- Do not approach, feed or harass wildlife. These actions can cause a wild animal to feel threatened, which can pose a danger to humans and their pets. It is illegal to feed wildlife in provincial parks and recreation areas.
- To Report A Poacher phone 1-800-642-3800 toll-free from anywhere in Alberta.

Crime Prevention

We experience very little serious crime in our parks and with your co-operation, we can keep it that way.

- Store your camping gear and valuables securely.
- Mark your camping gear and valuables to deter thieves.
- Report vandalism to a conservation officer or police.
- Be a good neighbor - help protect each other’s property.

Alberta

Alberta Parks